

Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

January 2, 2008

Synopsis

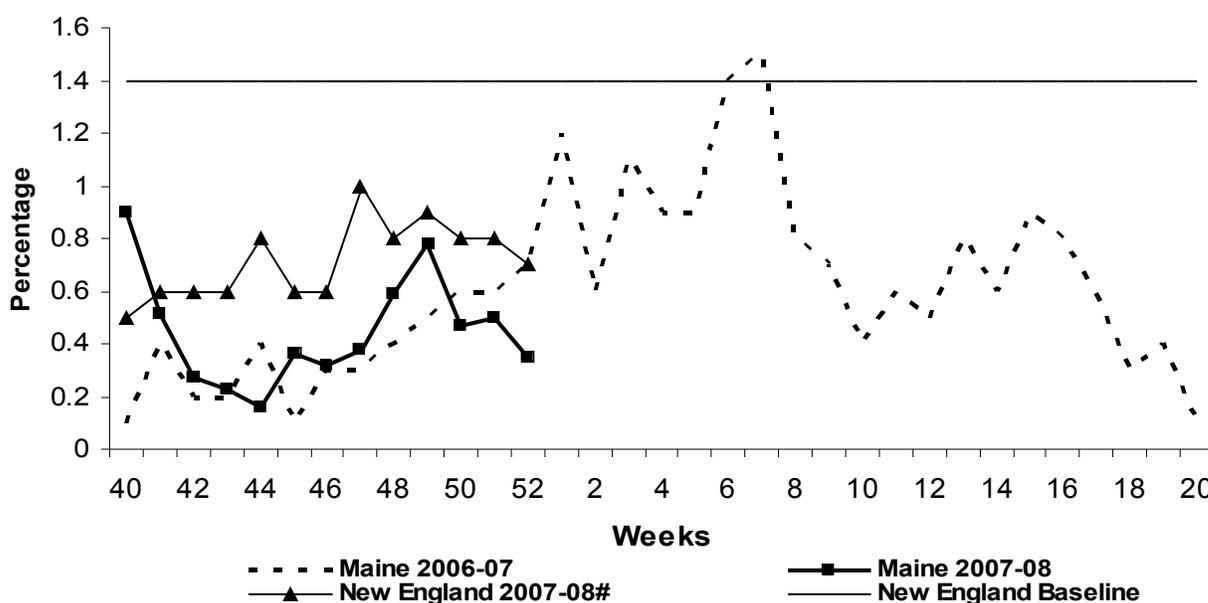
During the week ending December 29, 2007 (MMWR week 52)*, the first institutional outbreak was reported for the current influenza season. Maine continues to report sporadic influenza activity.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)

During the week ending December 29, 2007 (week 52), 0.4% of outpatient visits reported by eight Maine Sentinel Providers were for influenza-like illness (ILI), defined as fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}$ F / $\geq 37.8^{\circ}$ C) and cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. In the New England States, 0.7% of outpatient visits were attributed to influenza-like illness during week 52.

Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness -- Maine, 2006-08



New England is defined as Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

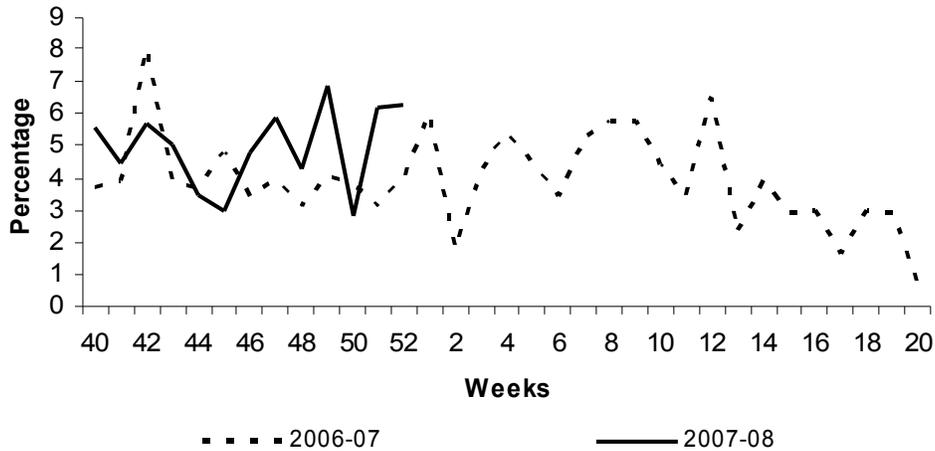
Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients

During the week ending December 29, 2007 (week 52), 6.3% of hospital admissions reported by three hospitals were attributable to pneumonia or influenza. This is similar to week 51 when 6.2% of hospital admissions were attributable to pneumonia or influenza.

* At time of publication, reporting may be incomplete. Numbers presented here may change as more reports are received.

Hospital Admissions Due to Pneumonia or Influenza -- Maine, 2006-08



Laboratory Reporting

During the week ending December 29, 2007 (week 52), one respiratory specimen was submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for influenza testing; results are pending on this specimen. As of December 29, 2007 (week 52), a cumulative total of 75 respiratory specimens had been submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for influenza testing. To date, 69 specimens were negative for influenza by culture, including 17 that were also negative by PCR. Two specimens were positive for parainfluenza-2 by culture and one was positive for parainfluenza-1. Culture results are pending on the remaining specimens.

Two private reference laboratories in Maine reported for the week ending December 29, 2007 (week 52). Seven (15.2%) of 46 specimens were positive for influenza A. In addition 15 specimens were positive for RSV, 1 specimen was positive for parainfluenza-2, and 1 specimen was positive for adenovirus. As of December 29, 2007, a cumulative total of 311 respiratory specimens had been submitted to two private reference laboratories in Maine. Of these, 21 (6.8%) specimens were positive for influenza A and one (0.3%) was positive for influenza B. Twenty-five specimens (8.0%) were positive for RSV, nine specimens (3.0%) were positive for parainfluenza-1, eight (2.6%) specimens were positive for parainfluenza-2, three (1.0%) specimens were positive for parainfluenza-3, four (1.3%) specimens was positive for adenovirus, three (1.0%) specimens were positive for enterovirus, and the remaining specimens were negative.

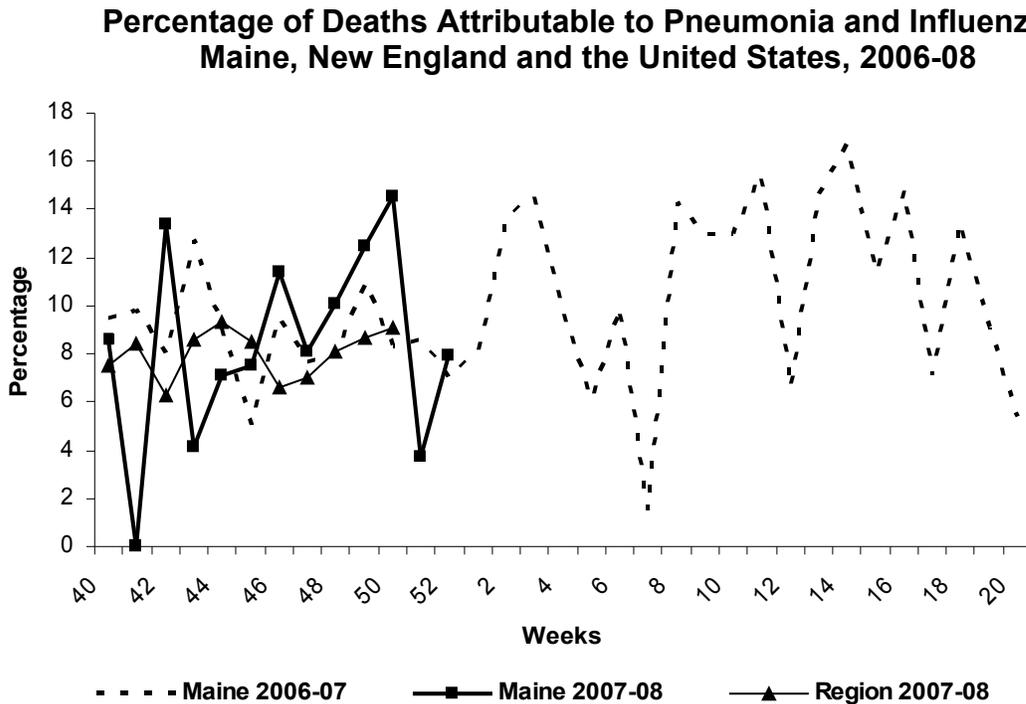
Outbreaks

The first outbreak of the season was reported on December 27 in a long-term care facility in the Midcoast region. Approximately 9% of residents were ill. None were hospitalized. No staff were reported to be ill. Influenza immunization for residents was 100%; approximately 55% of staff were immunized. Influenza type A was identified by a rapid antigen test.

Fatalities Surveillance

Death Certificates

During the week ending December 29, 2007 (week 52), 7.9% of deaths reported by one city vital records office was attributable to pneumonia and influenza.



^ New England includes the following reporting areas: Boston, MA; Bridgeport, CT; Cambridge, MA; Fall River, MA; Hartford, CT; Lowell, MA; Lynn, MA; New Bedford, MA; New Haven, CT; Providence, RI; Somerville, MA; Springfield, MA; Waterbury, CT; Worcester, MA.

Pediatric Fatalities

No influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Maine this season.

National Influenza Activity

State health departments report the estimated level of influenza activity in their states each week. States report influenza activity as: 1) no activity, 2) sporadic, 3) local, 4) regional, or 5) widespread (definitions of these levels can be found at: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm). Maine reported sporadic influenza activity for the week ending December 22, 2007 (week 51). For week 52, Maine reported sporadic activity.

